

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 6070

FOR: PGM/RC AND VOA WASHDC AND CINCAPC FOR PETTUS

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

MAJOR JAKARTA NEWSPAPERS MAY 10 WERE GIVING PROMINENT PAGE-ONE PLAY TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY ASHARI DANUDIRJO, INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., THAT INDONESIA AGREES "IN PRINCIPLE" TO ACCEPT A U.S. OFFER OF AN M-16 MANUFACTURING PLANT. ASHARI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, HOWEVER, THAT "THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY AND DEFENSE." HE SAID INDONESIA HAS HAD SIMILAR OFFERS FROM WEST GERMANY, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND AND GREAT BRITAIN.

SUARA KARYA, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT GOLKAR PARTY NEWSPAPER, HEADED ITS STORY, "U.S. OFFERS INDONESIA ESTABLISHMENT OF AN M-16 PLANT HERE." SINAR HARAPAN, A LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY, DECLARED, "INDONESIA IS CONSIDERING U.S. OFFER TO SET UP AN M-16 PLANT." PELITA, THE MOSLEM PARTY PAPER, SAID, "INDONESIA AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT U.S. OFFER OF M-16 WEAPONS AND THEIR MANUFACTURE."

THE STORIES -- ALSO CARRIED BY EMPAT LIMA, KOMPAS, MERDEKA, BERTA YUDHA, AND ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, ALSO QUOTED ASHARI, FOLLOWING A MAY 9 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, AS SAYING, "INDONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE FURTHER TALKS ON
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THE PURCHASE" OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT, ADDING INDONESIA NEEDS A SQUADRON OF 16 PLANES, NOT JUST THE 12 ALREADY AGREED TO.

THE AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT MONDALE'S VISIT TO ASEAN NATIONS HAS HAD "GREAT POLITICAL IMPACT" IN THE U.S. "AMERICANS NOW KNOW, HE ADDED, "THAT ASEAN PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PRESERVING SECURITY IN THE REGION, AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOW AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY

ASEAN." HE WAS REPORTED AS SAYING MONDALE'S VISIT WAS "PROOF" OF THE FOREGOING.

BERITA BUANA AND ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, BOTH ARMED FORCES NEWSPAPERS, REPORTED COORDINATING MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS PANGGABEAN AS SAYING INDONESIA HAD MADE CLEAR ITS VIEWS TO MONDALE ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"INDONESIA HAS STRESSED THAT IT IS WILLING TO REOPEN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES," PANGGABEAN SAID, ADDING INDONESIA IS IN FAVOR OF "A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO, BUT FIRST INDONESIA MUST TAKE INTERNAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS." HE REFERRED TO INDONESIAN CHINESE, SOME OF WHOM ARE INDONESIAN CITIZENS AND SOME OF WHOM ARE STATELESS.

MEANDWHILE, THE NATIONALISTIC DAILY MERDEKA AND ITS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SISTER PUBLICATION, THE INDOESIAN OBSERVER RAN LEAD STORIES ON VIEWS BY FOUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. "FOUR MP'S GIVE COMMENTS ON MONDALE VISIT; SUPERPOWERS ALWAYS WANT TO INTERFERE IN OTHER NATIONS' BUSINESS," THE MERDEKA HEADLINE DECLARED.

SARWONO KUSUMAMADJA, SECRETARY OF THE GOLKAR FACTION IN PARLIAMENT, WAS REPORTED AS SAYING, "SUPERPOWERS ARE ALWAYS INCLINED TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES; HOWEVER, IT IS NOW UP TO INDONESIANS THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE THEIR ATTITUDE." HE SAID IT IS "THE DUTY OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A CONDITION SUPPORTING OUR INDEPENDENCE AND AN ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY..."

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SOEDARDJI, A YOUNG POLITICIAN OF THE MOSLEM PARTY (PPP) WAS REPORTED AS SAYING, "INDONESIA'S FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY IS NOW TOO MUCH INFLUENCED BY AND DEPENDENT UPON THE TRIANGLE OF ECONOMIC POWERS, NAMELY THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND EUROPE."

"THE UNITED STATES CAN DO MANY THINGS TO HELP INDONESIA," HE ADDS, "SUCH AS MAKING GUARANTEES FOR OUR EXPORT COMMODITIES, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, SOFT LOANS, LONG TERM CREDITS ETC... AID FROM THE UNITED STATES ONLY RESULTS IN THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY LOSING ITS FREEDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT LOSING THE SUPPORT OF ITS PEOPLE."

AMIN ISKANDAR, ALSO A PPP MEMBER, COMMENTING ON MONDALE'S REMARKS REGARDING RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, SAID, "AS A GUEST MONDALE SHOULD NOT MAKE SUCH SUGGESTIONS ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANS." HE SAID THE VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS COULD BE TAKEN AS "AN INTENTION TO INTERFERE IN ANOTHER'S COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

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IN EDITORIAL REACTION:

ANGKATAN BERSENJATA APPLAUDED MONDALE'S REMARKS ON TAXES ON U.S. OIL COMPANIES OPERATING IN INDONESIAN AND PROVISIONS IN THE LIGUIFIED NATURAL GAS AGREEMENT. INDONESIAN EFFORTS TO FURTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE, THE NEWSPAPER SAID, HAVE MADE A "GOOD IMPRESSION" IN THE U.S. AND RESULTED IN THE SIGNING BY THE U.S. OF THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGREEMENT. "THE VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO INDONESIA HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND HAS LEFT A GOOD IMPRESSION," ANGKATAN BERSENJATA SAID.

EMPAT LIMA SAID A DECISION BY THE U.S. TO PURCHASE INDO-NESEAN LNG IS "ONE OF THE KEYS TO AN ESCALATION OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS." OTHER "KEYS" SAID THE NEWSPAPER, INCLUDE A DECISION ON RELEASE OF AMERICAN TIN STOCK-PILES, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE PREFERENCES FOR INDONESIA.

"INDONESIA'S DEPENDENCE ON AMERICA WILL INCREASE, BUT WE HOPE THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE WILL LESSEN THE DEPENDENCE IN THE FUTURE. WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO USE SUCH ASSISTANCE (IN ORDER TO) DECREASE DEPENDENCE BY INCREASING THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY AND BY DEVELOPING FOREIGN TRADE THROUGH EXPORTS," EMPAT LIMA SAID.

MERDEKA, COMMENTING ON MONDALE'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, SAID JOINT U.S.- AUSTRALIAN NAVAL EXERCISES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ARE "A PROVOCATION" TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND IGNORE THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE TO SEE THE INDIAN OCEAN FREE FROM "THE DANGER
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OF MILITARY RIVALRY."

MEANDWHILE, IN MEDAN ANALISA IN A MAY 6 EDITORIAL SAID U.S. "DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES" IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST ARE INEFFECTUAL AND GOING UNHEEDED BY CUBA AND THE SOVIETS. MONDALE'S STATEMENT ON U.S. DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE PEACE

IN ASIA AND THEPACIFIC "HAS YET TO BE TESTED," THE NEWSPAPER SAID. AFRICA, IT ADDED, IS "A VALUABLE TESTING GROUND."

A WASPADA (MEDAN) EDITORIAL OF MAY 8 TOOK A GENERALLY FAVORABLE STANCE ON THE MONDALE VISIT. "MONDALE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO THE MATTER OF (INDONESIAN POLITICAL) PRISONERS... BUT DID (HE) NOT TOUCH ON THOSE WHO WERE ARRESTED DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS," THE EDITORIAL ADDED. WASPADA SAID THE "OPEN AND FRANK DIPLOMACY" HAS CONTRIBUTED TO COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDONESIA AND "TO THE SOLUTION OF COMMON PROBLEMS, EXPECIALLY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION." ENDUSINFO.
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